

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2009

SWAC Members

Mark Glazer, Chair	David Frank	Kurt Osuch
Sara Ducey	Paula Jenson	Craig Simoneau
Steve Findley	Lee Levine	Steve Sprague
Susan Filocco	Marcia Marks	Ed Violette

Absent: L. Alexander, O. Hall, M. Harrington, E. Lee

County Staff	Guests
Peter Karasik, DSWS	Stefanie Starr
Angela Jordan, DSWS	

The regular meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was called to order by the Chair at 9:04 a.m. on September 12, 2009, at the Shady Grove Recycling Center in Derwood.

The Chair welcomed everyone at the meeting, and introductions were made.

OLD BUSINESS

Meeting Minutes – The minutes of the June 2, 2009 meeting were approved as amended.

Subcommittee/ Reports – Mr. Violette reported that the subject of June's DAFIG meeting was cost savings for the County to lower the chance of any possible cutbacks. DAFIG is incorporated into the County budget through FY11 for various environmental testing and County staff time. The group explored ways to decrease costs including less frequent testing and traffic studies. No threats have been detected in groundwater monitoring and traffic studies have produced no new information.

Mr. Violette also reported that Dick Hill, the DAFIG Chair, has expressed some comfort in learning that the County Council is not in favor of Bill 21-09's call to disband DAFIG.

MAJOR PROGRAM TOPIC

Mr. Karasik gave a presentation on the Recycling Center. Before discussing the Shady Grove Transfer Station, he led the group to witness the Recycling Center's recycling

operation in progress. He gave an overview of the layout, machinery, and operations of the two facilities.

### Recycling Center

- The recyclables accepted in the blue bins continue to increase. With the exception of the polystyrene plastic found in clamshell containers found at the salad bar, plastic toys and lawn chairs, Montgomery County accepts most plastics. The equipment is not designed for bulky plastic items. These items are accepted at the Transfer Station as trash, not at the curbside with the other recyclables.
- The award-winning Recycling Center staff is comprised of employees from Montgomery County contractors MES and Tito. These employees opted to have a four day, 10 hour work week. There is only one shift.

Tito employees separate recyclables by hand and remove any extra items that do not belong in the recycling stream. They take personal pride in what they do and there continues to be low turnover in the workforce. Many years have passed since there has been a serious injury.

- The recyclables collected at the Recycling Center bring in revenue for Montgomery County.
  - Plastic milk and detergent containers (clear and colored HDPE) generate income of \$300-500 per ton, as
  - Steel brings in about \$100 per ton.
  - Aluminum will fetch in about \$1,200 per ton.

Conversely, mixed glass is a commodity that is more of a liability than an asset. Mixed glass, the broken glass retrieved from the vibrating screen of the Pre-Sort station, costs about \$15 per ton, i.e., we pay to have someone take it and recycle it.

With the economic downturn, the commodities market has taken a big hit, but the County's income is still positive. Last year the facility earned about \$2.7 million, not quite enough to offset the operating cost of about \$3.5 million, but it was the first year in about five years that revenues were less than operating costs.

- Mr. Karasik told the committee about the machinery used in the County's sorting and processing system and walked them through the procedure of preparing the recyclables for export.
- The material is unloaded onto the tipping floor, and then moved onto a conveyor belt leading to the Pre-Sort station, where contaminating items, such as plastic bags, are removed. An electromagnet acquires the ferrous (metal) material. The

Shaker Table retrieves the broken glass. The Air Classifier blows the plastic bottles up, while the glass falls down on the way to be sorted by color. The plastic is sorted and separated by hand, since a machine would not be able to differentiate the different varieties of plastic.

### Shady Grove Transfer Station

- The Shady Grove Transfer Station is a waste collection facility used by local residents and haulers bringing trash, recyclables, hazardous waste, and yard trim. The facility operates with the help of two contractors. Covanta Energy, a waste disposal and energy generation organization, oversees the trash operation and Maryland Environmental Service (MES), a Maryland agency that recycles and markets recovered materials, manages our recycling and composting operation.
- The Transfer Station is the only full-service transfer station in Montgomery County. There are drop-off areas for trash, commingled recyclables, mixed paper, scrap metal, hazardous material, oil, antifreeze, vegetable oil, textiles, tires, computers and electronics, and yard trim.
- Hazardous material and electronics recycling events are conducted around the County. The electronics events serve all geographic areas of the County. The hazardous waste events are held at several locations in the spring and fall.

The number of televisions continues to escalate due to the digital conversion, while the number of computers received has declined. Last month, 116 tons of televisions were collected, along with 50-60 tons of computers. The electronics recycling vendor breaks down the electronics to recover all recyclable material to be sold to markets worldwide. It is illegal for electronics to be exported whole.

- A heavy-duty grinder formulates fresh mulch on-site from the yard trim collected. It is available to the County residents at no charge.
- All waste is loaded into containers and transported via rail to Dickerson, MD for incineration. Yard waste is processed into compost to be sold under the name LeafGro and CompPro. The ash and non-burnable material is sent to a landfill located in Brunswick, VA.

### NEW BUSINESS

The Chair told the committee that vacancy announcements would be forthcoming due to the resignation of Ms. Alexander and the term expiration of Mr. Frank. A subcommittee will be formed to interview potential board members.

The Chair reminded the board of upcoming elections for Chair and Vice Chair and to be ready to discuss potential topics for the 2010 meetings.

Ms. Ducey, Ms. Filocco, and Mr. Osuch were asked to choose a subcommittee to serve on. All SWAC members must serve on at least one subcommittee. Ms. Ducey chose the Planning committee, Ms. Filocco chose the School Recycling committee, and Mr. Osuch chose the Budget committee.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

#### ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m. A tour of the Transfer Station commenced immediately after the meeting.

#### **ACRONYMS**

DAFIG	Dickerson Area Facilities Implementation Group
HDPE	High-density polyethylene
MES	Maryland Environmental Service
SWAC	Solid Waste Advisory Committee

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2008 ATTENDANCE														
	J A N	F E B	M A R	A P R	M A Y	J U N	J U L	A U G	S E P	O C T	N O V	D E C	Absences In Last 12 Months	
Abralind, Jessica		X	X	X	X	X							-1	
Alexander, Leslie		X	X		X	X				X			-3	
Findley, Steve			X	X	X	X				X	X			
Frank, David	X	X	X	X		X				X	X		-1	
Glazer, Mark	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X			
Guernica, Mimi	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X			
Hall, Odell	X		X		X	X				X	X		-2	
Harrington, Marcia	X	X	X	X	X	X				X			-1	
Jenson, Paula		X	X	X	X	X				X	X			
Lee, Ed		X	X	X	X	X					X		-1	
Levine, Lee	X	X	X			X				X	X		-2	
Marks, Marcia	X	X			X	X				X	X		-2	
McCarty, Sean	X	X		X	X						X		-3	
Simoneau, Craig	X	X	X	X	X					X	X		-1	
Sprague, Steve		X	X	X	X	X				X	X			
Violette, Ed				X	X	X				X	X			

October 2008-september 2009

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2009 ATTENDANCE														
	J A N	F E B	M A R	A P R	M A Y	J U N	J U L	A U G	S E P	O C T	N O V	D E C	Absences In Last 12 Months	
Alexander, Leslie		X			X								-2	Waiver granted Jun '09 at 0
Ducey, Sara					X	X			X				-1	
Findley, Steve	X	X	X			X			X				-1	
Filocco, Susan					X				X				-2	
Frank, David	X	X	X		X	X			X					May '08 dropped off
Glazer, Mark	X	X	X		X	X			X					
Hall, Odell		X				X							-4	Feb/April '08 dropped off, still at 3 absences
Harrington, Marcia	X	X	X		X	X							-2	Nov '08
Jenson, Paula		X	X		X	X			X				-1	
Lee, Ed	X	X	X			X							-3	Send Ed a reminder
Levine, Lee	X	X	X			X			X				-1	April/May '08 dropped off
Marks, Marcia	X	X	X		X	X			X					April/May '08 dropped off
Osuch, Kurt			X		X				X				-1	
Simoneau, Craig	X	X	X			X			X				-2	
Sprague, Steve	X	X	X		X	X			X					
Violette, Ed	X	X	X		X	X			X					

